

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-23 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE03/02054.

Please add new claims 24-46 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

Claim 24 (new): A stanchion for a tarpaulin structure which can be locked on a fixing member, the stanchion comprising:

a counterbearing, and

a supporting element insertable between the fixing member and the counterbearing.

Claim 25 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the supporting element comprises a lower boundary, which is matched in a form-fitting manner to the fixing member, and an upper boundary, which is matched in a form-fitting manner to the counterbearing.

Claim 26 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the supporting element is fixed on a part of the stanchion.

Claim 27 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the supporting element is fixed on the fixing member.

Claim 28 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the supporting element is a separate part to the stanchion and fixing member.

Claim 29 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, further comprising a lever arrangement configured to raise and lock the stanchion, and wherein the supporting element is disposed on the lever arrangement.

Claim 30 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 29, wherein the lever arrangement includes a main lever, on which the supporting element is fixed, and an auxiliary lever that connects the main lever and the body of the stanchion.

Claim 31 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 30, wherein the intermediate lever and the main lever include essentially as U-shaped parts that engage one over the other in a locked state of the stanchion.

Claim 32 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 31, wherein the supporting element and the counterbearing are covered by a base of at least one of the U-shaped levers in the locked state of the stanchion.

Claim 33 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 30, wherein the main lever has a joint for the auxiliary lever a handle recess arranged above the joint.

Claim 34 (new): A stanchion for a tarpaulin structure which can be locked on a fixing member that includes a lever arrangement having joints and configured to raise and lock the stanchion, the stanchion comprising:

a counterbearing; and

a supporting element insertable between the fixing member and the counterbearing, such that when the stanchion is locked, the joints of the lever arrangement do not transmit any vertical forces.

Claim 35 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 29, wherein the lever arrangement includes a claw part which can be brought into engagement with the fixing member.

Claim 36 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the stanchion has a foot region

and a transverse web in the foot region, and wherein, in a locked state of the stanchion, the transverse web extends behind a lug of the fixing member.

Claim 37 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the stanchion has a foot region and struts disposed in the foot region that run vertically and are disposed at a distance from each other, the distance corresponding to a width of the fixing member.

Claim 38 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 37, wherein the stanchion has a transverse web in the foot region, the transverse web, in the locked state of the stanchion, extends behind a lug of the fixing member, and wherein the transverse web and the struts are designed as a common part.

Claim 39 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the counterbearing upwardly bounds a cutout of the stanchion.

Claim 40 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the stanchion is composed of an upper stanchion part and a lower stanchion part which grip in each other.

Claim 41 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 40, wherein the lower stanchion part has a profile with projections which run in a longitudinal direction of the stanchion and have a rectangular profile.

Claim 42 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, further comprising a supporting surface, a longitudinal support, and an extension having rollers, and wherein, when the stanchion is raised, the supporting surface comes into contact with the longitudinal support and the extension protrudes above the supporting surface.

Claim 43 (new): The stanchion as recited in claim 24, wherein the counterbearing includes a metal body connected fixedly to a body of the stanchion.

Claim 44 (new): A stanchion arrangement for a tarpaulin structure, comprising

a fixing member;

a stanchion, which can be locked and released from said fixing member, the stanchion comprising a counterbearing; and

a supporting element insertable between the fixing member and counterbearing.

Claim 45 (new): A tarpaulin frame for a loading area built over by a tarpaulin structure, including longitudinal supports which run above edges of the loading area, wherein the longitudinal supports are supported against the loading area by at least one stanchion arrangement, said stanchion arrangement comprising:

a fixing member;

a stanchion, which can be locked and released from said fixing member, the stanchion having a foot region and a counterbearing; and

a supporting element insertable between the fixing member and counterbearing, wherein the fixing member is secured in a region of the loading area and the stanchion is locked in the foot region on the fixing member and is supported against a corresponding longitudinal support by means of an upper supporting surface.

Claim 46 (new): The tarpaulin frame as recited in claim 45, wherein the tarpaulin structure is a sliding tarpaulin.